

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

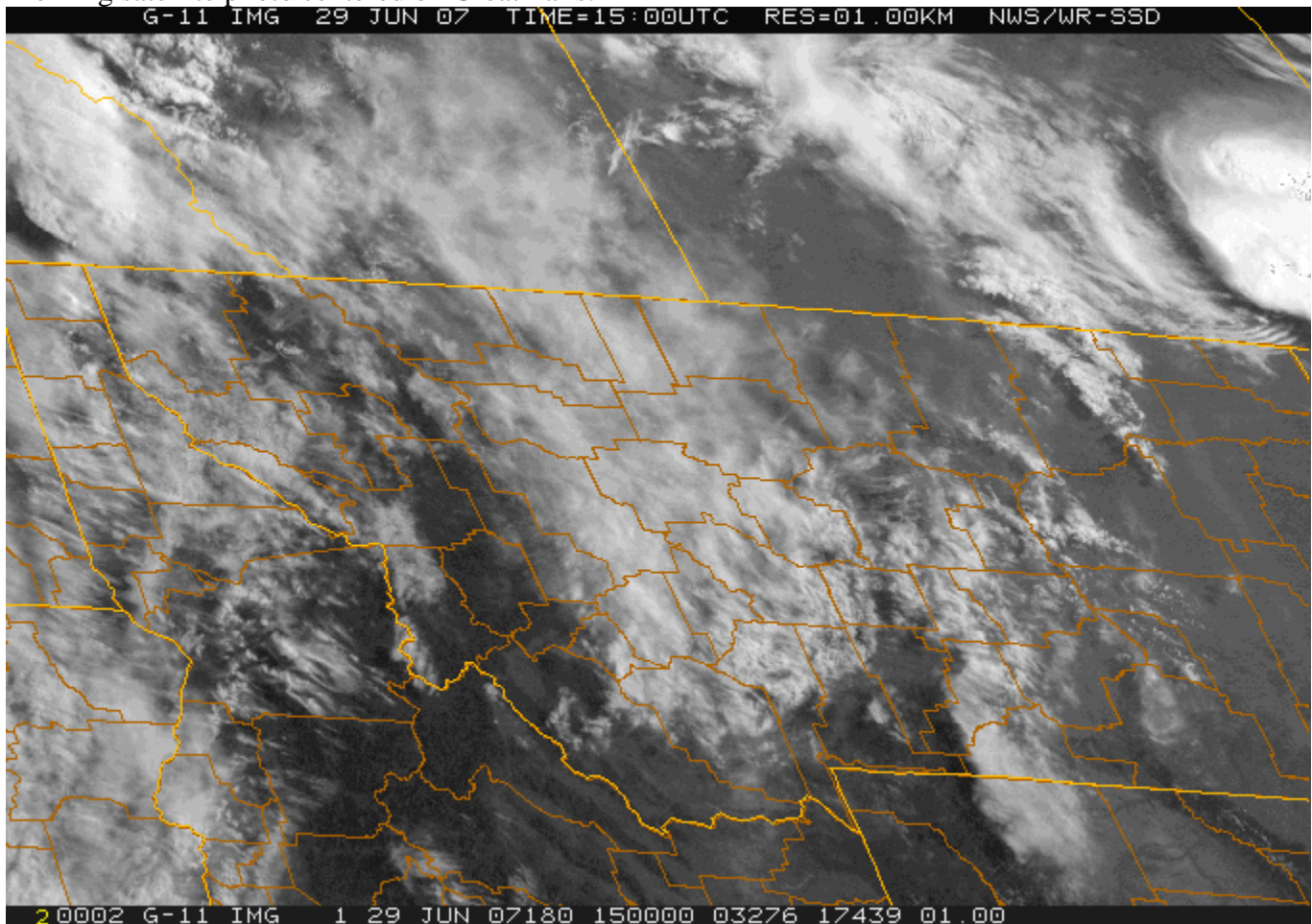
June 29, 2007

10:00 AM

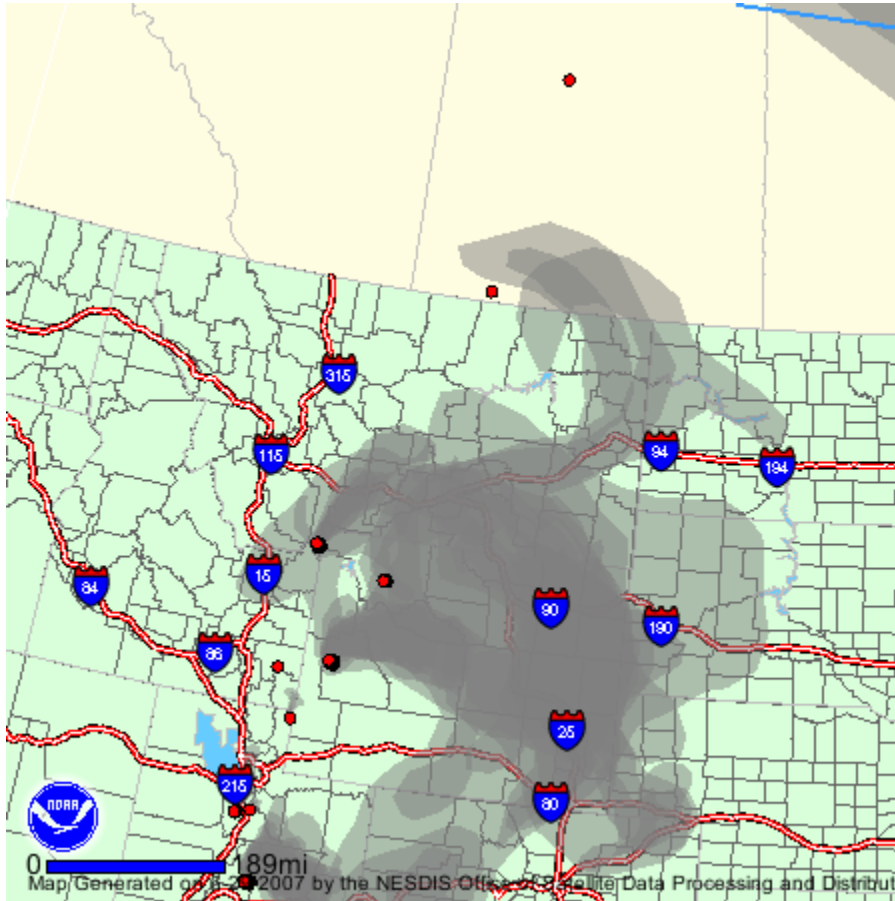
Current Situation

Smoke from the Madison Arm fire just outside of West Yellowstone has re-entered the city this morning but is not as bad as yesterday. Currently, West Yellowstone is at the UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE level. This is expected to reach UNHEALTHY for an hour or so before higher mixing heights and increased winds move the smoke out of town again this afternoon. Smoke levels downwind of the fire are expected to stay at UNHEALTHY or worse throughout the day. See the forecast below for details. There is quite a lot of general haze over the rest of the state and visual ranges are down to 20 to 30 miles in many areas but health effects are not a problem under those conditions. Residents in areas with nearby fires should pay attention to current conditions and use the VISIBILITY GUIDELINES to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/SmokeCategories.asp>

Updated 10:00 AM June 28, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

<u>HAZARDOUS</u>	
VERY UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	West Yellowstone T1, T8
MODERATE	

T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x) Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local visibility guidelines

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/VisibilityRanges.asp>

to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

Southwest winds are expected again today and tonight in the West Yellowstone area. This will keep most of the smoke out of town and levels there should improve greatly by early afternoon. Visibility impacts along highways in the area could be a problem for traffic as far north as Big Sky. Conditions could become poor again tomorrow morning as an inversion traps the smoke and holds it close to the ground. The actual levels will be a function of the fire activity levels later this afternoon and evening during the active phase of this fire. A weak frontal passage is forecast through the area Saturday afternoon and wind from the north could drive substantial amounts of smoke into town when that occurs. Residents near active fires need to remain aware of current conditions and use the visibility guidelines:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/VisibilityRanges.asp>

to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

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